

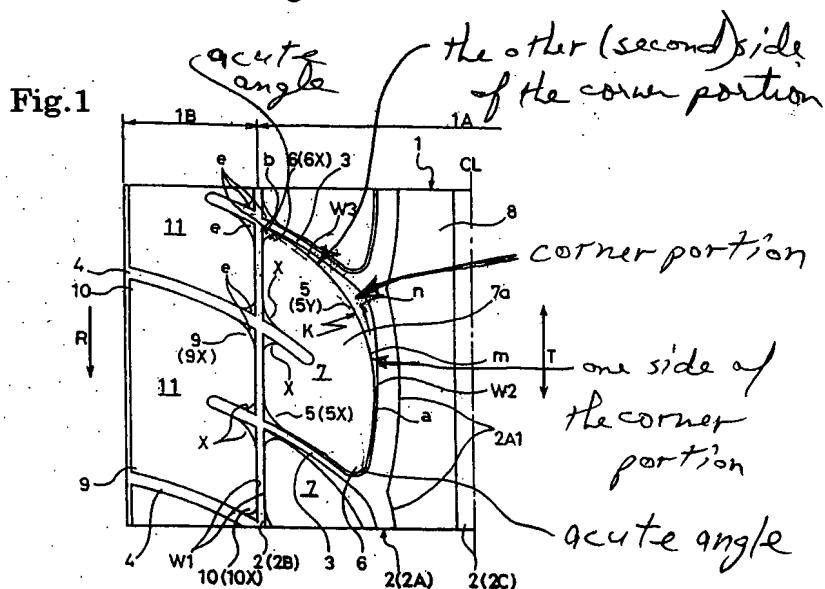
REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 6. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form, and allowance is requested.

The objection to claim 3 has been overcome by amendment, without narrowing the scope of the claim. Withdrawal is requested.

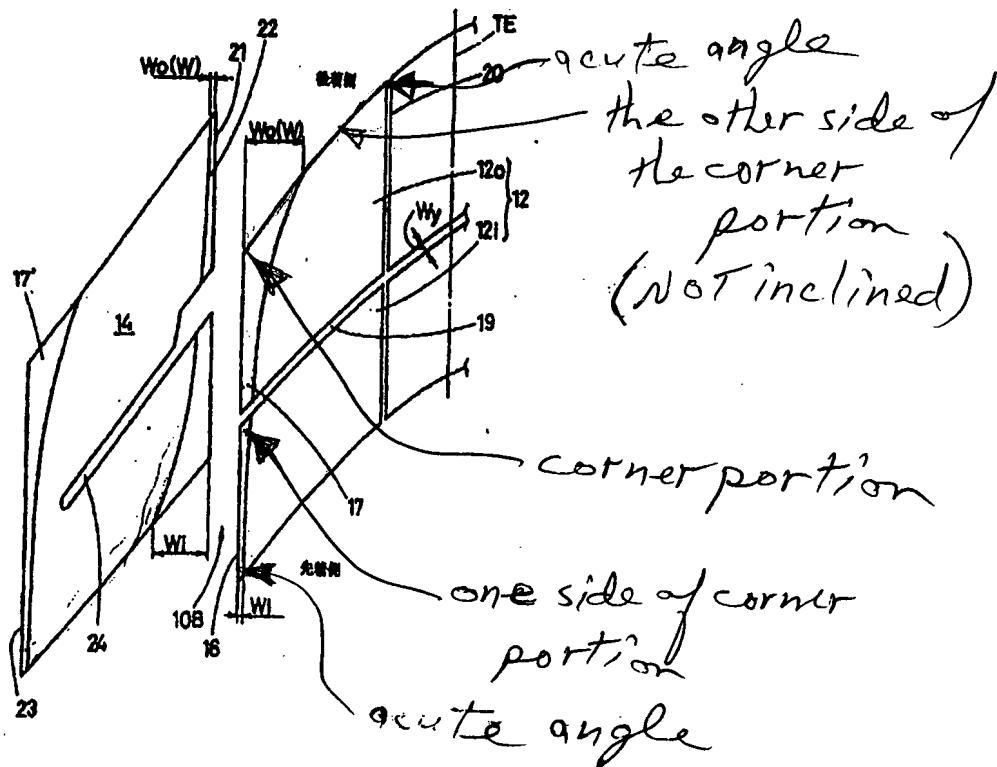
Claims 1-4 and 7-12 stand rejected under § 102 or § 103 on the basis of JP '711. Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of JP '711 and JP '609. Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection. The amendment is supported at least by Fig. 1. Applicants traverse these rejections because the cited references do not disclose or suggest inclining both side groove wall surfaces to at least acute-angled corner portions as well as at an obtuse-angled corner portion, as in the present invention.

In the present invention, the groove walls are inclined on both sides of an obtuse-angled corner portion, as seen below. The walls are inclined to the acute-angled corner portions, as is better seen in Fig. 1 as filed.



JP '711 has an inclined surface on one side of a corner, but it does not reach the acute angle at the top, as seen in the marked-up version of Fig. 3 of JP '711 shown below.

【図3】



The absence of this feature in the reference avoids anticipation and is strong evidence of nonobviousness.

The present invention addresses and solves wear problems produced where high lateral acceleration is applied during turning. Applicants reduced wear by providing inclined groove surfaces that reach both acute angles at the ends of the portions on the sides of the obtuse-angled corners.

JP '711 has a lateral groove, but its inventors did not see that the groove wall of the "other" side of the corner portion above could be inclined to the acute angle, or that inclining the groove wall of the "other" side to the acute angle would work to produce the result of the present invention, i.e., wear reduction. For these reasons, applicants' modification would not have been obvious in view of the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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